

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 30 are pending. Claim 16 has been amended in this paper to conform the claim to the elected species as discussed below. Applicant requests that the examiner kindly enter this amendment.

The examiner restricted the claims into two groups under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and requires an election. Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Group I, claims 1-19 drawn to a guide wire, without traverse.

The examiner further requires an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicant hereby elects to prosecute in set I, species D, a guide wire shown in Figures 11-12, and in set II, species X, a guide wire with a constant outer diameter shown in Figure 19, without traverse. Claim 16 has been amended to cover a guide wire with a constant outside diameter as in Figure 19. Therefore, applicant believes claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 10-17 are readable on set I, species D, and set II, species X. The unelected claims are withdrawn from consideration after this paper is entered.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-2426 for any unforeseen fees arising in connection with the filing of this paper. Applicant further invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned for any questions arising from this reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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